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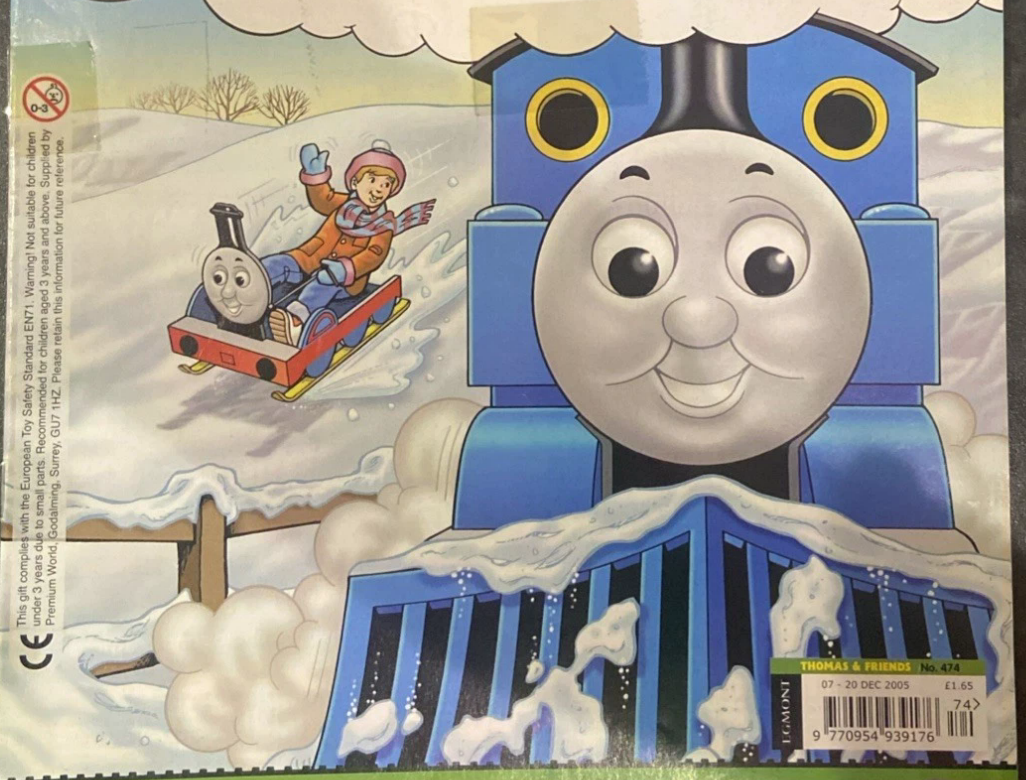

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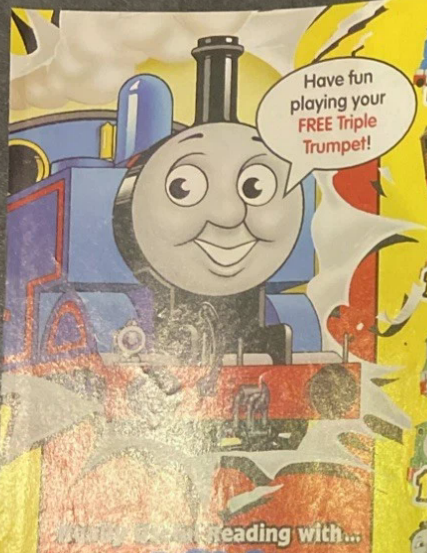

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20 **Badgers' Way** a rhyming story

24 **Colouring fun** use your brightest crayons

26 **Really Useful coach** a splendid bedtime story

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Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends

A BRIEF ALLCROFT COMPANY PRODUCTION

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry

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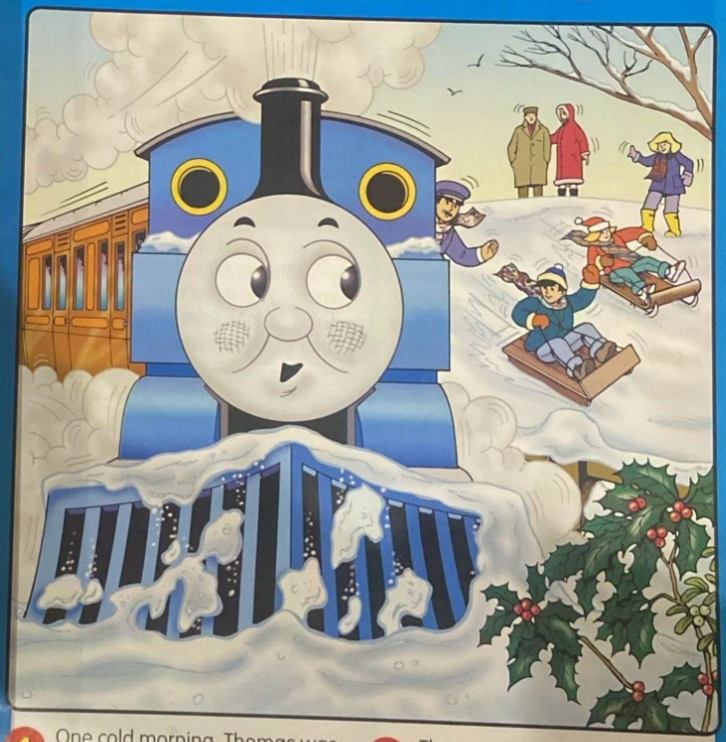
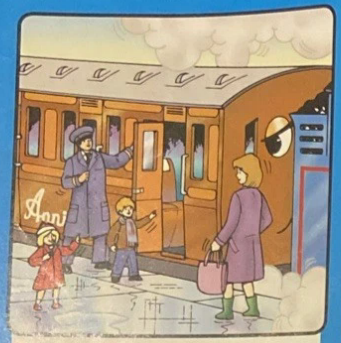
fun to read together

Slide and ride



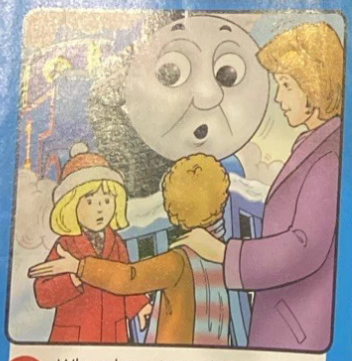
1 One cold morning, Thomas was clearing snow from the track with his snowplough. "Pheesh!" he gasped. "It's hard work!" Nearby, children were riding on toboggans.

2 They waved to Thomas as they went sliding by. "It's the easiest way to travel today!" Thomas thought. Before long, he pulled into a station to pick up passengers.

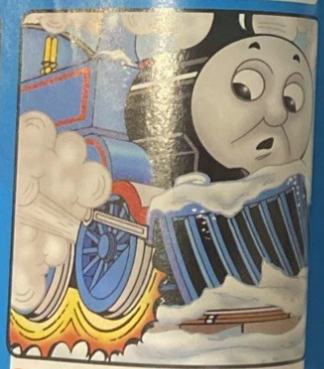


3 The Stationmaster helped his [illegible] children, Adam and [illegible] the train. "Mum's taking us to the toyshop to buy us a toboggan," said Adam.

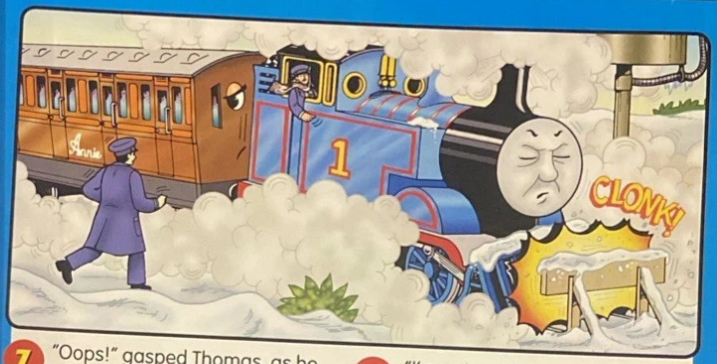
4 The guard blew his whistle and Thomas puffed off. He sent snow flying with his snowplough. Thomas took Adam, Debbie and their mum to a shopping centre.



5 When he returned to pick them up, the children looked sad. "Every toboggan has been sold!" Adam told Thomas. "We've asked at all the toyshops," added Debbie.



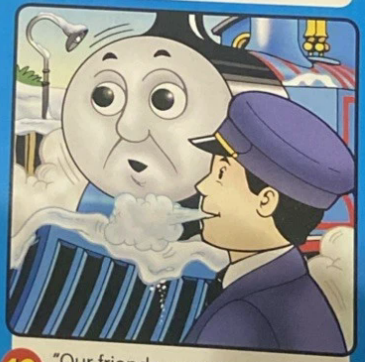
6 Thomas took the children home. Their dad said he would build them a toboggan. Meanwhile, as Thomas went to a water tower, his wheels skidded.



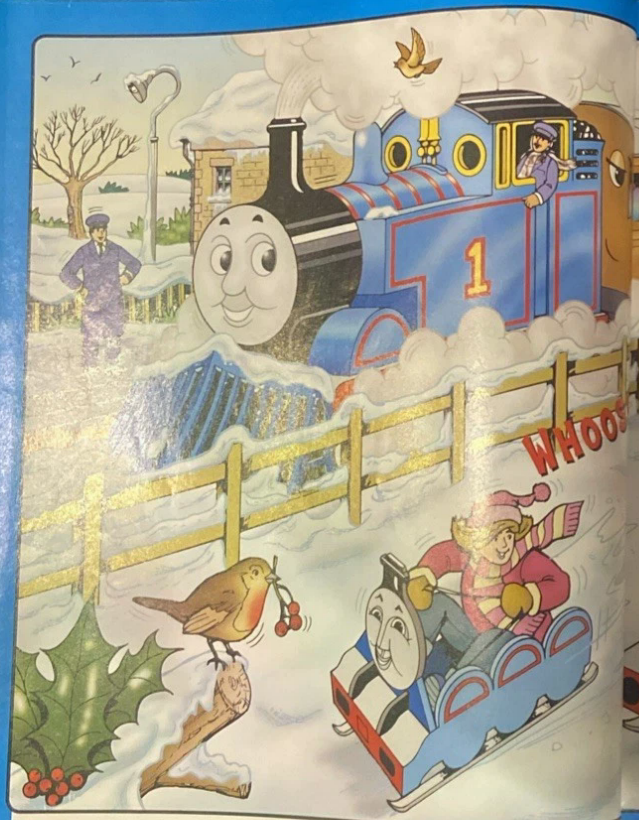
7 "Oops!" gasped Thomas, as he slid. Thomas hit some buffers, jolting Annie and Clarabel. "Oh, do be careful!" they shouted. Luckily, both the carriages were empty.

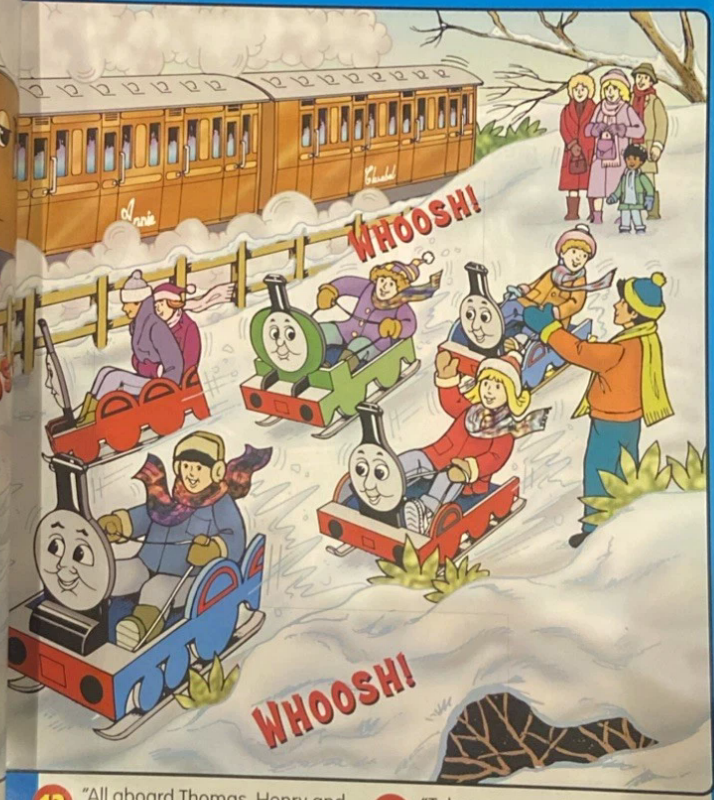
8 "I'm not much use as a toboggan," groaned Thomas. But he had an idea and told the Stationmaster. Next day, Thomas saw Adam and Debbie.

9 They were riding a toboggan down a slope. "Whee!" cried Adam. "See what Dad made!" The toboggan had a face and funnel. "It looks like me!" laughed Thomas.



10 "Our friends want one now," said Adam. "Your idea was Useful," smiled the Stationmaster. "I'm too busy to make any more." "I know who could!" thought Thomas.





11 Thomas spoke to The Fat Controller, who rang the Sodor Toy Factory. Everything was arranged. Later, Thomas arrived there to make a special collection.

12 "My staff have worked hard to build lots more toboggans," said the manager. Thomas delivered them to all the toyshops. The new toboggans quickly sold o

13 "All aboard Thomas, Henry and Gordon!" shouted the excited children. They whizzed over the snow on toboggans that looked just like the steam engines.

14 "Toboggans are fun," Debbie and Adam called to Thomas. "Especially an engine toboggan!" "But a real engine with wheels is best!" pipped Thomas.

The End

Snow much fun

"I used to think snow was just cold, but it's also great fun to play in!" says Thomas to his driver.

Use this number line to help you answer the questions below.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

1. How many deer can you see?
2. How many people are on the sled?
3. What colour is the snowman's scarf?
4. How many dogs are there?
5. How many hats can you count?
6. What colour is Thomas' snowplough?

Warm work

Read the story and when you see a picture, say the word!

The words made into pictures are...

Bill

scarf

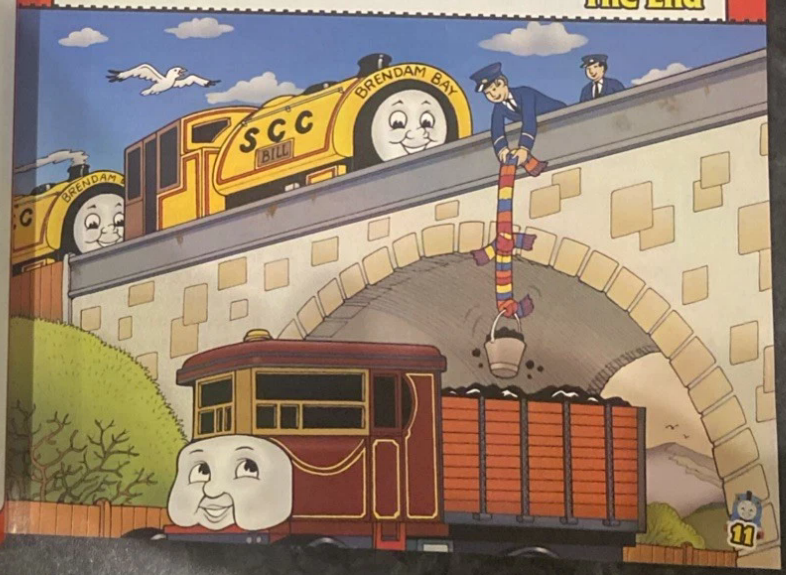
Elizabeth

coal

One cold, windy morning, and Ben the Saddle-tank engine twins, stood in The Shed until their drivers arrived. Each driver wore a long, striped "You look like twins too!" teased and Ben. The engines [illegible] and a line of trucks. But, ran out of coal. The train [illegible] to a halt on a bridge. the Vintage Steam Lorry rumbled along the road below. "Can have some of your , please?" called his driver. "But how can I get it to you?" asked . "It's a long way by road to that bridge!" The driver took off his . Then he borrowed Ben's

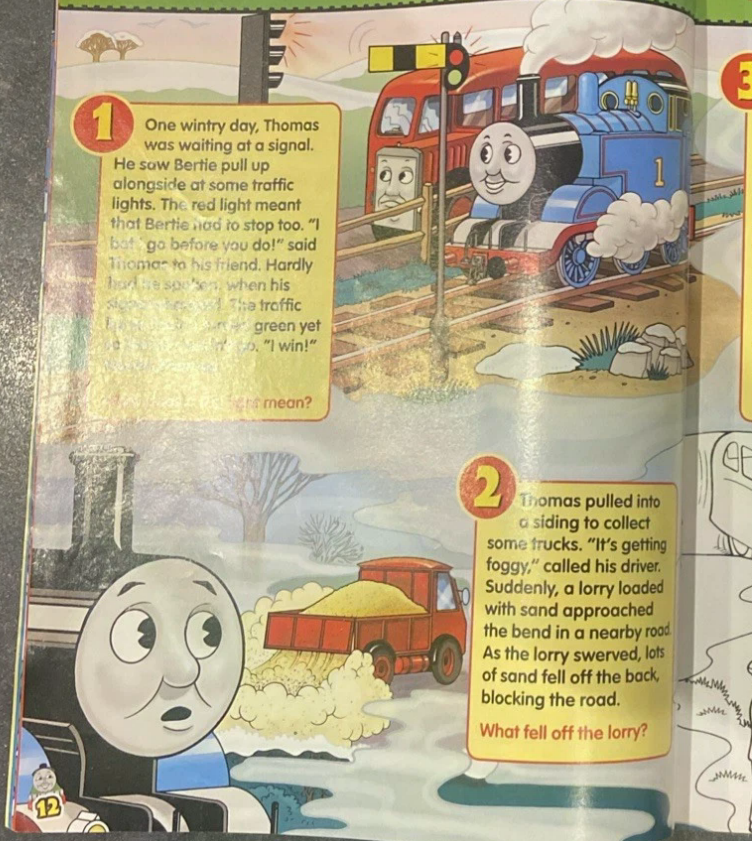
driver's and knotted them together. He tied a bucket to the end and lowered it to . Her driver filled the bucket with and Driver pulled it up again. Soon, had enough to reach the next station. "I don't need to wear my now," Driver told . "Lifting all that has really warmed me up!"

The End



Bus, stop!

Read the story and answer the questions along the way. When you get to the end, colour the picture in with your brightest crayons!



1 One wintry day, Thomas was waiting at a signal. He saw Bertie pull up alongside at some traffic lights. The red light meant that Bertie had to stop too. "I bet I go before you do!" said Thomas to his friend. Hardly had he spoken, when his [illegible] The traffic [illegible] green yet [illegible] "I win!"

[illegible] mean?

2 Thomas pulled into a siding to collect some trucks. "It's getting foggy," called his driver. Suddenly, a lorry loaded with sand approached the bend in a nearby road. As the lorry swerved, lots of sand fell off the back, blocking the road.

What fell off the lorry?

3 Thomas knew Bertie would be along soon. "This fog's getting thicker," shouted Thomas. "We must warn Bertie about the sand so that he'll stop in time!" Just then, Thomas remembered the traffic lights and had an idea. He whispered it to his driver. "What a brilliant idea, Thomas!" said Driver. He got two engine lamps from Thomas' guard's van. "These will help us to warn Bertie!"

What did Driver get from Thomas' guard's van?

4 Driver lit them so they glowed red. The guard and Driver held up the lights just as Bertie arrived. The bus saw the red lights shining through the fog and pulled up safely. "Knowing all about traffic lights and that red means STOP is Really Useful!" smiled Thomas, proudly.

Colour the picture!

The little blue engine presents these
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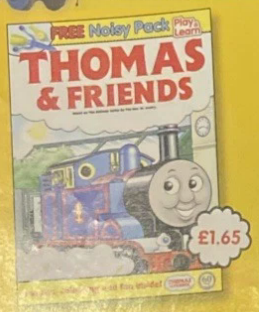

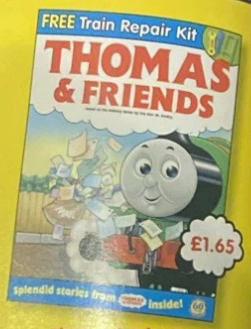

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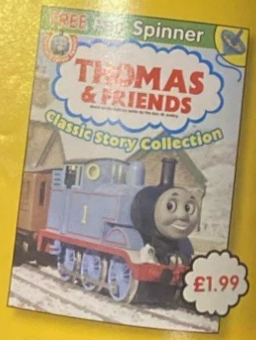

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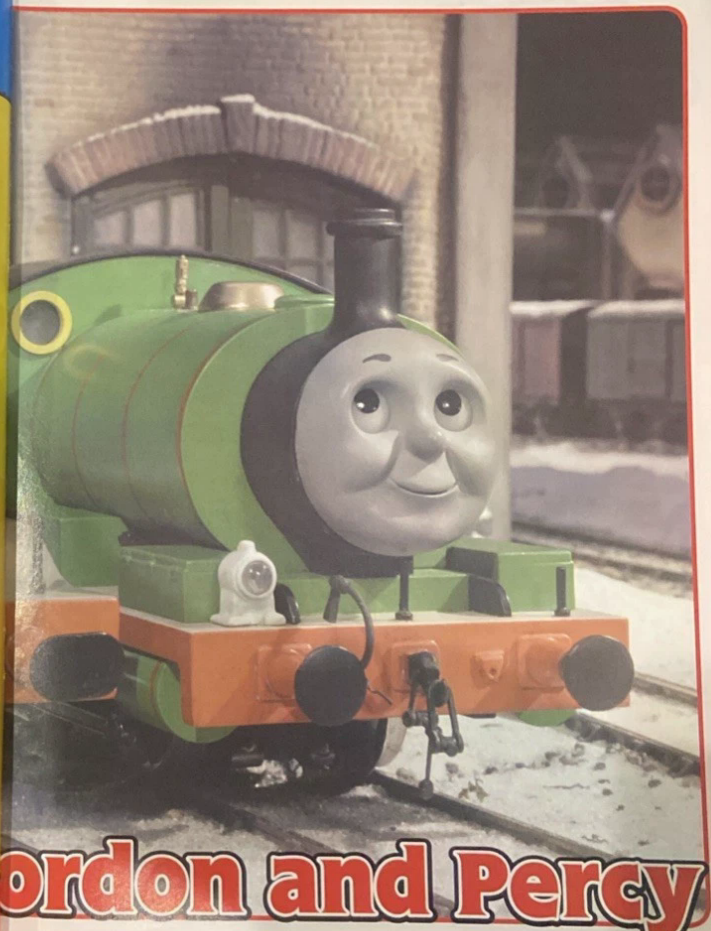
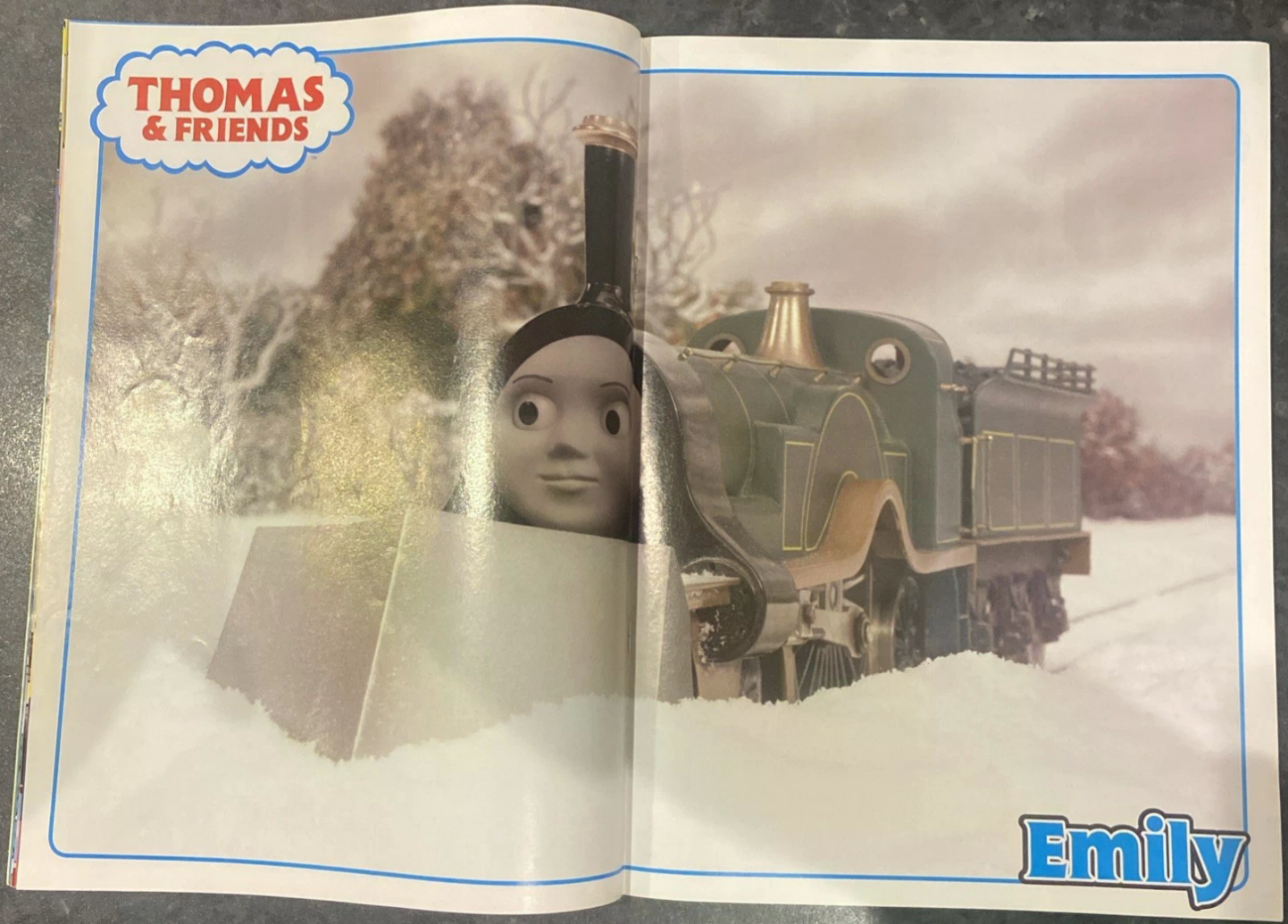
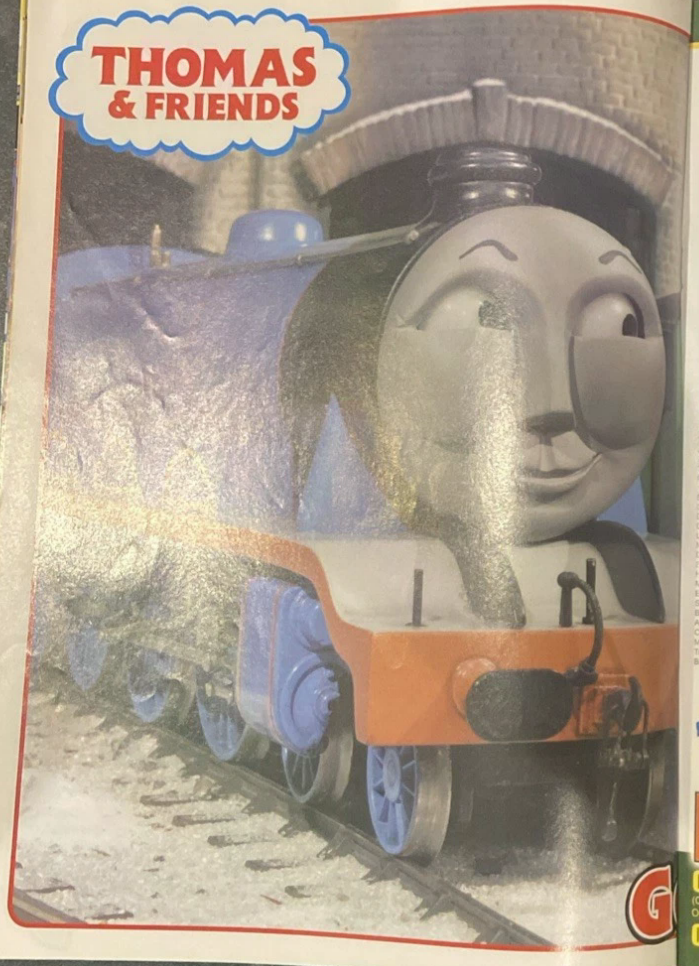


ordon and Percy


THOMAS
& FRIENDS
Emily



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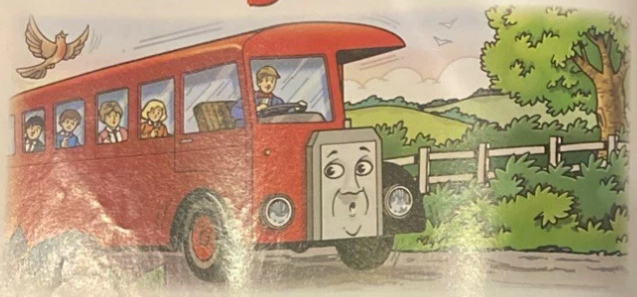
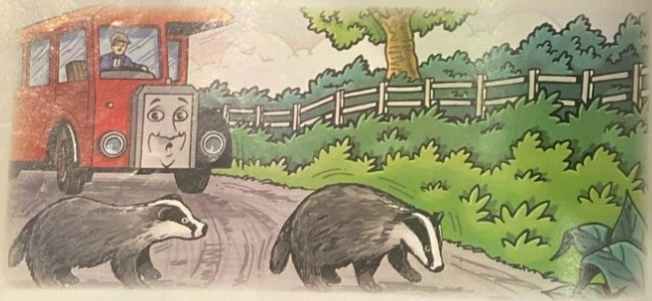
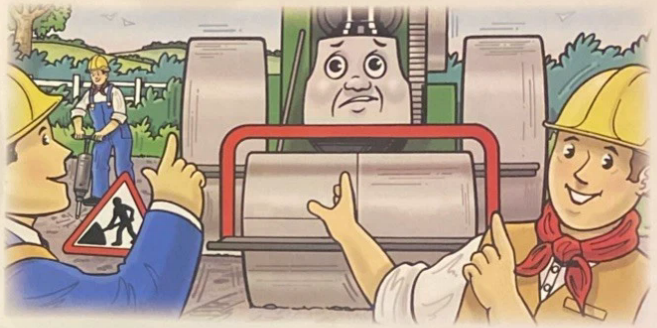
Badgers' Way



Part of Bertie's bus route,
Was a bumpy country lane.
It bounced the startled passengers,
Some cursed that they'd complain.

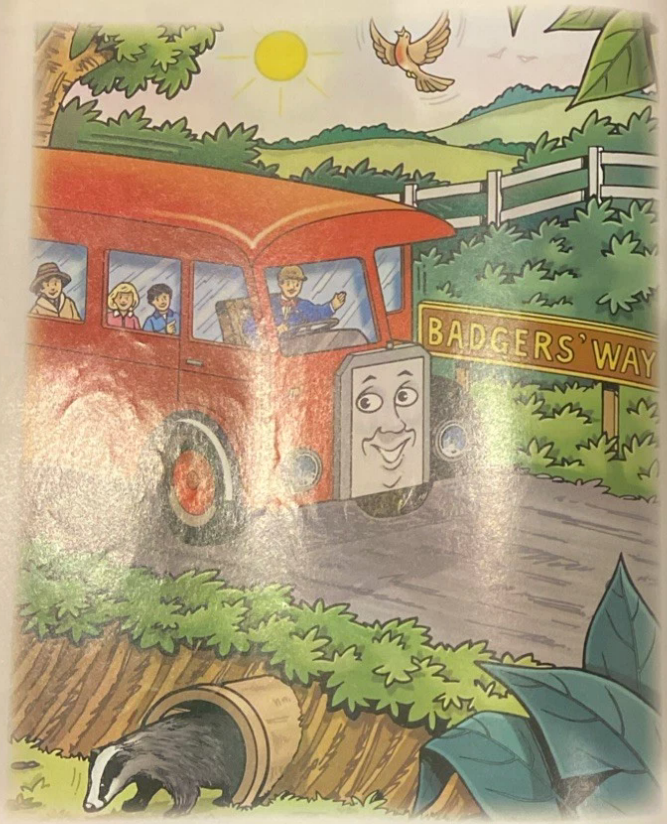


2 Then Bertie pulled up sharply,
When some badgers walked across.
"This lane is part of their route too,"
He later told his boss.



3 George the grumpy Steamroller,
Soon heard what he must do.
Re-lay the lane's worn surface,
And help the badgers too.

4 "I'll use my roller," boasted George,
"To give Bertie a smooth ride."
Beneath the lane, a pipe was laid,
That stretched from side to side.



5 "It's specially for the badgers!"
People heard proud Bertie say.
"They can cross the lane in safety,
Now they use new 'Badgers' Way'!"

The End

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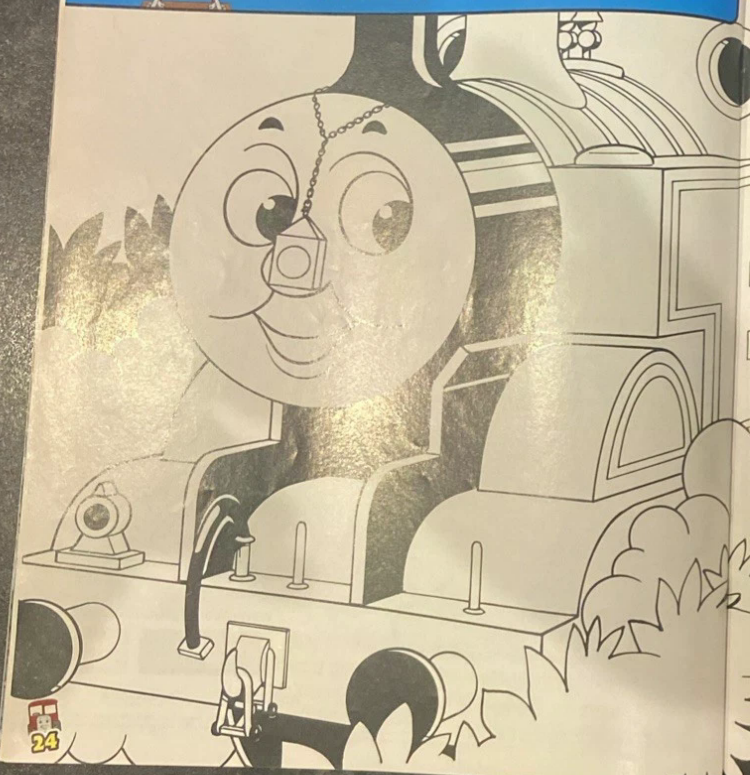
Santa train

"Ho! Ho! Ho! There's a present for everyone!" says The Fat Controller, dressed as Santa.



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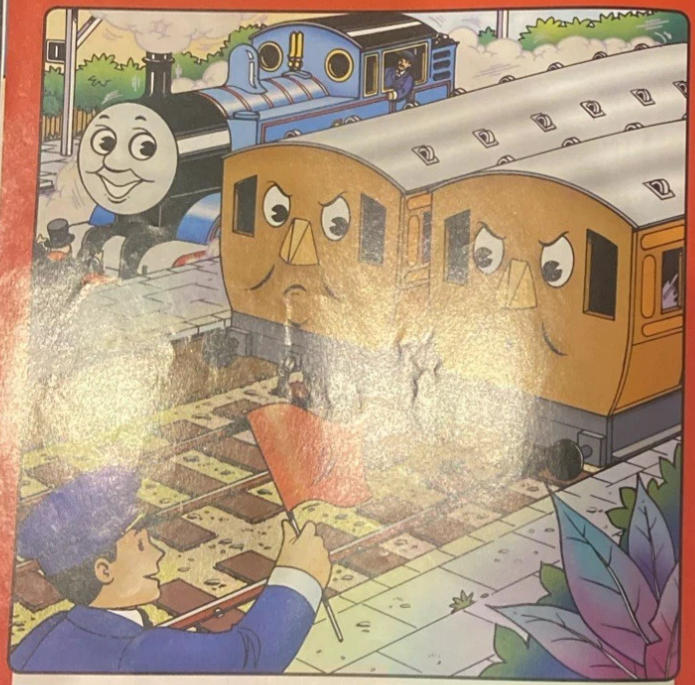
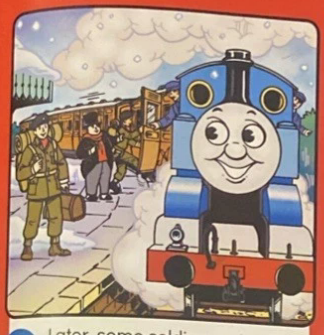
Really Useful coaches

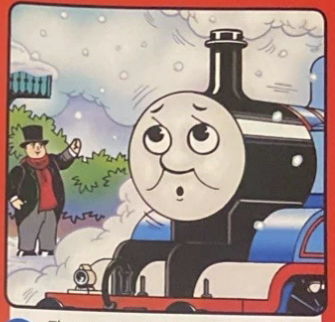


1 It was a wintry day on the Island of Sodor. Despite the cold, Thomas had done all of his work on time. "You're a Really Useful Engine!" cried The Fat Controller.

2 Thomas was very pleased with himself. This made his coaches, Annie and Clarabel, feel cross. "We do as much work as Thomas," said Clarabel, "but he gets all the praise!"



3 Later, some soldiers arrived. "Please would you take us to the country?" asked the officer. "My men need to learn all about living in cold weather."

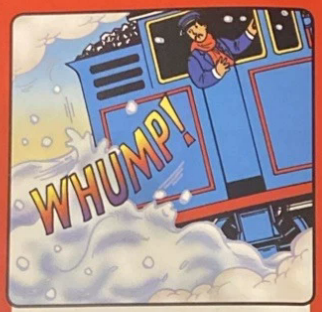


4 Thomas was given this special job as a reward for his good work. "I hope it doesn't take too long," said Thomas, looking up at the sky. "More snow is on the way!"

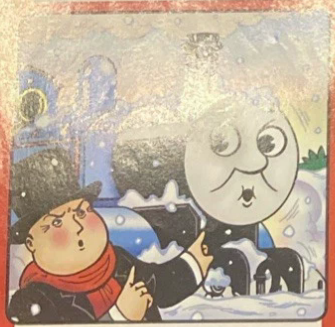
5 Thomas stopped at Gordon's Hill to let the soldiers get off. Then, he went up the slope to take his branch line back to the station. "Here comes the snow!" he cried.

6 Thomas was so worried about the weather, he didn't notice that a coupling had come loose. WHEEE! Annie and Clarabel rolled down the hill on their own!

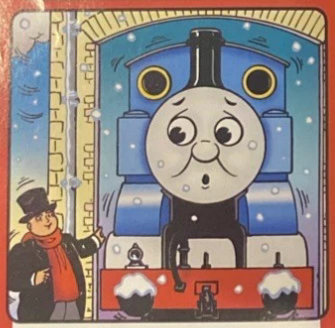
7 Thomas sped on. "Wait a minute!" yelled his driver. "We've lost Annie and Clarabel!" "No wonder I was going so fast!" thought Thomas.



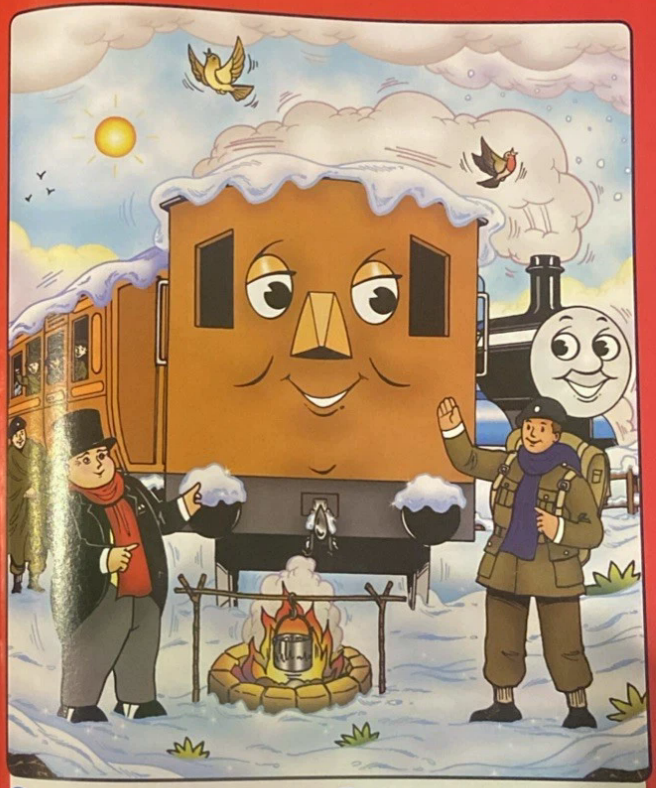
8 Thomas stopped and started going backwards to find his carriages. WHUMP! Thomas ran into a deep snowdrift that had slid down and blocked the line!



9 Struggling free, Thomas raced to The Main Station. "You're very late!" scolded The Fat Controller. "I know," wailed Thomas, "and I've lost Annie and Clarabel!"



10 Thomas went to The Shed. "We'll find your carriages tomorrow," promised The Fat Controller. "I hope the soldiers are all right being out in this blizzard," said Thomas.



11 Next day, Thomas found Annie and Clarabel at the bottom of Gordon's Hill. They had some special passengers. The soldiers had sheltered in them!

12 The Fat Controller was very pleased with them. "You've been Really Useful coaches," he said. "You see, Thomas?" chuckled Annie. "We're Useful, too!"

The End

Sodor mail

Please send your letters, pictures and drawings with your full address to: Sodor Mail, Thomas & Friends, Egmont Magazines UK, PO Box 51, Erith DA8 1WD.

Max Avery, aged 2, not only met The Fat Controller on a day out, but Stepney and Percy too.

James Tilsley is Thomas mad and has a great collection of toys.

This splendid painting of Thomas was done by **Elliot Busby**, aged 4½.

"Follow me, Murdoch!" says Thomas. Drawn by **Thomas Hulme**, aged 6.

Tristan Bromley, aged 5, grew these sunflowers himself! Splendid!

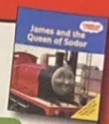
Happy Birthday to you all, from Thomas and his friends!

Stephen Hogan, aged 3

Owen Harding, aged 5

James Paul Rigby, aged 3

If you'd like a birthday mention, send details at least 16 weeks in advance, on a postcard please, to the address at the top of the page. Thomas is sorry that he cannot guarantee your mention.



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Don't forget to look out for other fun Thomas titles from Egmont Books – you can collect each engine in the Thomas Story Library or get smart fast with the super-clever Thomas Learning Series!

Readers who submit letters, drawings, photographs, etc. to Thomas & Friends understand that by doing so they give permission to Egmont to publish this material in its magazines and publicity/promotions. Egmont regrets it cannot return readers' submissions.

"There'll be no fighting with Ben!" says The Fat Controller to Bill. Drawn by **Newton Self**, aged 5.

"All aboard!" cries **Robert Wilshire** to his mum and big sister, Sophie.

Star poem

Gordon is a big engine,
He's sometimes very rude,
To all the other engines,
When he's in a bad mood.
But, he has lots and lots of friends,
He meets along the way,
Like Thomas, Edward and Duck,
They work together every day!

Oliver Bonugli, aged 4.

Oliver wins a set of four Wooden Railway Engines from RC2.

For stockists call: 01271 336155 or visit www.thomasthetankengine-rc2.com

RC2

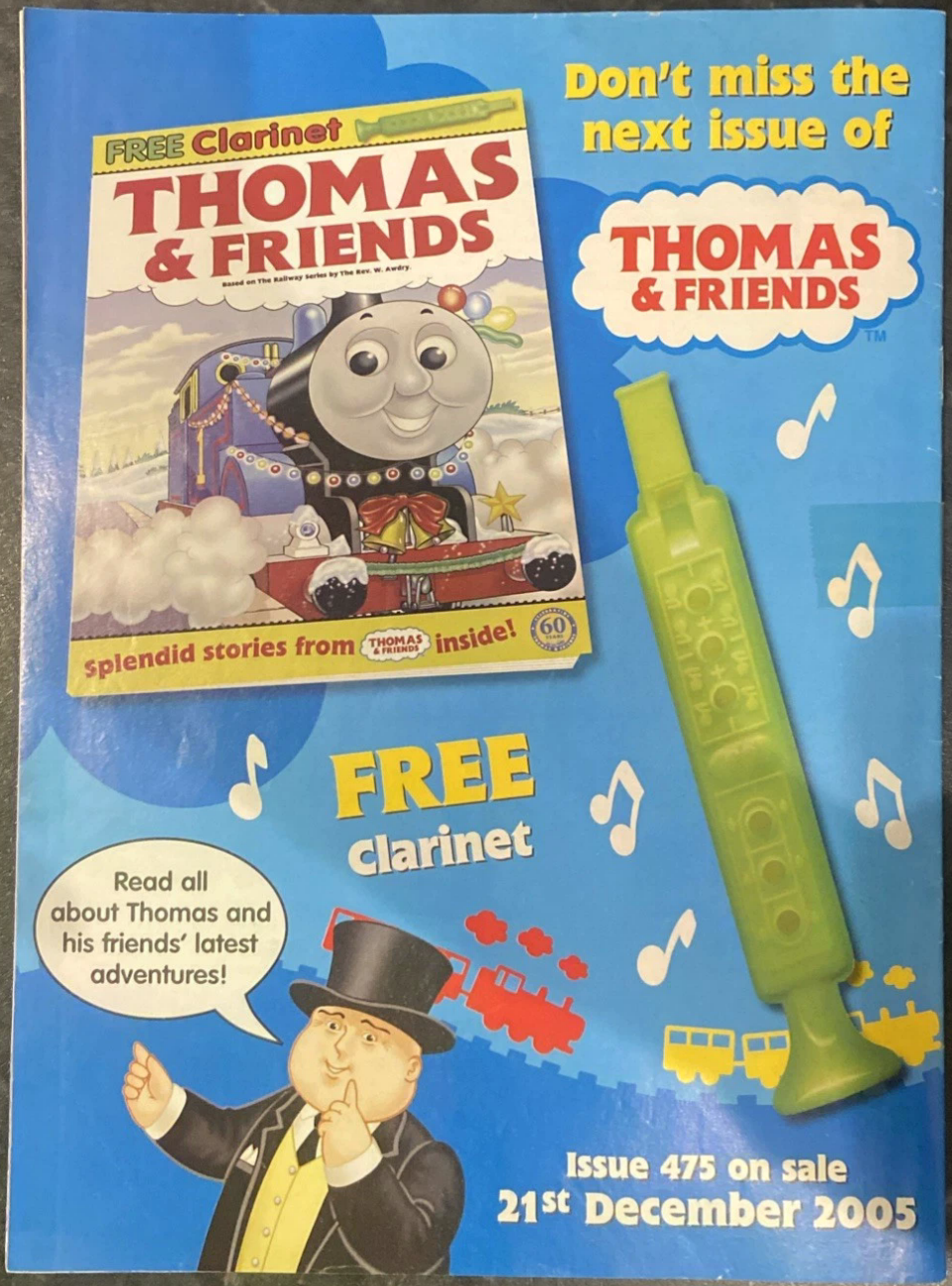
Learning Curve

Stanley Grosch, aged 3

Inigo Pointon, aged 2

George Noyce, aged 6

Go to www.thomasandfriends.com for more Thomas fun.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